Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

JAN 31 2019

Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, N.W., Suite B255
Washington, D.C. 20005

Via email: foia@americanoversight.org

Re: HQ-2019-00162-F

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the final response to the request for information that you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. You requested:

> All email communications (including emails, email attachments, calendar invitations/entries) between Michigan Attorney General William "Bill" Schuette and political appointees in the following offices:
>
> - Immediate Office of the Secretary
> - Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
>
> Please provide all responsive records from January 20, 2017, through the date the search is conducted.

In a November 20, 2018, email with Ms. Stephanie Ostrowski, of my office, Ms. Katherine Anthony, of your office, agreed to amend your request to an email search using the following addresses, domains, and keywords:

- billschuette53@gmail.com
- ondutybillschuette@gmail.com
- @mi.gov
- @michigan.gov
- "Schuette"

In a January 16, 2019, email with Ms. Stephanie Ostrowski, of my office, Ms. Katherine Anthony, of your office, agreed to waive publicly-available documents.

Your request was assigned to DOE's Office of the Executive Secretariat (ES) and the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs (CI). DOE started its search on December 12, 2018, which is the cut-off date for responsive documents. DOE completed its search but did not locate any documents responsive to your request.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Therefore, pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 1004.4(d), I am unable to provide any responsive documents for ES or CI. Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.7(b)(2), I am responsible for the determination that no responsive records exist in those offices.

The adequacy of the search may be appealed within 90 calendar days from your receipt of this letter pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8. Appeals should be addressed to Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, HG-1, L'Enfant Plaza, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-1615. The written appeal, including the envelope, must clearly indicate that a FOIA appeal is being made. You may also submit your appeal by e-mail to OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov, including the phrase "Freedom of Information Appeal" in the subject line. (This is the method preferred by the Office of Hearings and Appeals.) The appeal must contain all the elements required by 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8, including a copy of the determination letter. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the Federal District Court either (1) in the district where you reside, (2) where you have your principal place of business, (3) where DOE's records are situated, or (4) in the District of Columbia.

You may contact DOE's FOIA Public Liaison, Alexander Morris, FOIA Officer, Office of Public Information, at 202-586-5955, or by mail at MA-46 Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

The FOIA provides for the assessment of fees for the processing of requests. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(i); *see also* 10 C.F.R. § 1004.9(a). In our November 20, 2018, letter you were informed your request was placed in the "other" category for fee purposes. Requesters in this category are entitled to two free hours of search time and are provided 100 pages at no cost. In that same letter, you were informed that your request for a fee waiver was granted. Thus, no fees will be charged for processing your request.

If you have any questions about the processing of the request or this letter, you may contact Ms. Stephanie Ostrowski or me at:

MA-46/Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585
(202) 586-1355

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this matter.

Sincerely,

Alexander C. Morris
FOIA Officer
Office of Public Information

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT